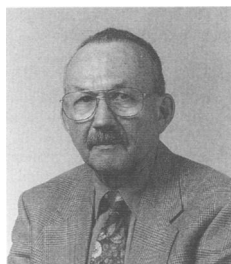


## OBITUARY

### Dean A. Schmidt, 1930–1998



Dean Schmidt died of cancer August 19, 1998, at his home in Columbia, Missouri. He had been director of the health sciences li-

brary at the University of Missouri–Columbia for thirty-five years. Dean was a member of the generation of librarians whose career began with the manual typewriter and led a transformation to powerful personal computers and high-speed networks. From his first implementation of computing technologies, he understood their power to help libraries work as a community.

Dean was born in Webster, South Dakota, and he attended the University of Minnesota. His undergraduate degree was in Latin. Following service in the Korean War, he returned to the University of Minnesota and received his master's degree in library science in 1953. His first professional position was as junior librarian in the Reference Department at the University of Minnesota Library. In 1957, he was appointed to the position of librarian in the Atomic Energy Library at the University of Michigan. Three years later, he became the circulation librarian at the Medical Library. He left the University of Michigan in 1962 to become director of the health sciences library at the University of Missouri.

Under Dean's leadership, the health sciences library saw its square footage triple, its staff size more than quadruple, and its collection increase sevenfold. The University of Missouri became the third library to join the PHILSOM Network in 1970. PHILSOM was one of the first automated serials

control systems and was developed by Estelle Brodman, Ph.D., and her staff at the Washington University School of Medicine Library. The system had been in operation for several years when, in 1969, Dr. Brodman recognized that a network model would extend access to the technology and allow costs to be shared. While achieving these objectives, the network provided a framework for a community of libraries to take on the challenges of serials bibliography and to enhance the design of the system. Dean was a leader in the development of this network community, and support for collaborative efforts proved to be a hallmark of his career.

This commitment to collaboration is best demonstrated by Dean's service to the Regional Medical Library program. Dean and his library were founding members of the Midcontinental Regional Medical Library Program (MCRMLP) and he served on the Regional Advisory Committee for over twenty-five years. While the MCRMLP might have come together "through the process of elimination," its membership included three of the most distinguished and formidable library directors of their generation: Bernice Hetzner, Estelle Brodman, and Frank Rodgers. Dean was a newly minted director and the early meetings of the region must have been more than an education, but he always talked of those meetings with great fondness.

In 1983, Dean began the construction of the J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library, completed and dedicated in 1985. Having spent nearly two decades as director in a facility that was typical of libraries in carved out space in a medical center, the new library offered wonderful space, bright light, and a welcoming sense that was

also an accurate reflection of Dean. Not surprisingly, Dean concluded his career with yet another major collaborative effort, the University of Missouri IAIMS project. Dean developed a very productive partnership with Joyce Mitchell, the principal investigator for the IAIMS Planning and Implementation Projects. Dean's commitment to this collaboration was demonstrated by his willingness to delay his planned retirement in order to contribute to the IAIMS Implementation Project. His efforts assured that the IAIMS had an institution-wide vision, which is best provided by the library.

But Dean's service to the University of Missouri (MU) extended beyond the health sciences community. He served twice as interim director of the MU Libraries, and he was the first librarian ever to serve on MU's Faculty Council. Near the close of his career, Dean assumed a key role in the University of Missouri's critically important activity of switching library systems. While working on IAIMS, he also was working half-time at the University's Library Systems Office, implementing the new system (Innovative Interfaces, Inc.) for all four campuses as well as Saint Louis University. The new system that resulted from this collaboration is now the basis for a state-wide library system for all academic libraries in Missouri.

Dean is survived by two sons, John and Peter. Dean's wife died when the children were very young and Dean proved that he was both a successful library director and father. He was very proud of his sons. In most discussions with Dean, his most recent visit to his sons was always high on his list of important topics. For a time, some of these visits involved long drives to the west coast and Dean liked long

drives. Another favorite destination was to the sun on the Texas Gulf Coast, coming back with a glowing new tan.

Dean was an excellent librarian. He left an important legacy for health sciences librarians in Missouri. He raised fine sons. His

good humor was endless. He was a good guy. He was a colleague and friend.

*Wayne J. Peay*

*Director*

*Spencer S. Eccles Health Sciences Library*

*University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, Utah*

*E. Diane Johnson, AHIP*

*Head, Information Services*

*J. Otto Lottes Health Sciences Library  
University of Missouri–Columbia  
Columbia, Missouri*

## **VOLUME 87 ERRATUM**

**87(1) January 1999**

**pages 111–139, Association Record, editing credit**

*Steven J. Squires, Proceedings Editor*

*Health Sciences Library*

*University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*